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| 10/539,983 | 06/19/2005 | Demetri Giannopoulos | US020603 | 8357 |

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| EXAMINER |
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SYED, NABIL H

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2609

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05/01/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/539,983

Applicant(s)

GIANNOPOULOS ET AL.

Examiner

Nabil H. Syed

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/19/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 4-7, 11, 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Grouev et al (6,333,605).

As of claim 1, Grouve discloses a wireless-controlled lighting system (via a light modulating electronic ballast, see title) including a control master (via a wall mounted controller, see col. 5, lines 58-60) and a group of lighting units (via ballast 10, see fig. 1), all communicating via commonly-received wireless transmissions, a method of associating group of lighting units, each having a unique identification code (via each ballast having a unique identification, see col. 2, lines 16-18) , with respective control elements of a remote control (via a handheld unit, , see col. 5, lines 42-43) (also via a photodetector see col. 5, lines 1-2), method comprising:

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- a. each of the lighting units transmitting a modulated light signal carrying the respective identification code (via ballast transmitting its ID, see col. 4, lines 64-66);
- b. positioning the remote control at a location where it receives the modulated light signal from only one of the lighting units (see col. 5, lines 42-43) ;
- c. activating a selected one of the control elements of the remote control to associate control element with the lighting unit transmitting the modulated light signal being received (via organizing the ballasts into a zone, see col. 5, lines 66-67.);
- d. transmitting from the remote control to the control master a signal identifying the unique identification code for the lighting unit and the control element with which lighting unit has been associated (via operator using the handheld unit to transmit the ID to the wall mounted controller, see col. 5, lines 58-61);
- e. repeating each of steps b through d for each of the remaining lighting units in the group (via repeating the system for each ballast, see col. 5, lines 63-65).

As of claim 4, Grouev discloses that the unique identification code is pre-assigned (see col. 2, lines 16-17).

As of claim 5, Grouev disclose that the unique identification code is determined at the time of association of the control element with the respective lighting unit (see col. 2, lines 24-27).

As of claim 6, Grouev discloses a method where each of the lighting units transmits the modulated light signal for a predetermined period after said lighting unit is powered up (via ballast transmitting its ID after getting the power, see col. 4, lines 64-66).

As of claim 7, Grouev discloses a method where the modulated light signal comprises light emitted by the lighting unit for illumination (via ballast identifying itself by modulating the light output from one or more lamps coupled to the ballast, see col. 6, lines 8-10).

As of claim 11, Grouve discloses a method of configuring a wireless-controlled lighting system (via a light modulating electronic ballast) including a group of lighting units (via ballast 10, see fig. 1), each having a unique identification code (via each ballast having a unique identification number, see col. 2, lines 16-17), and a remote control (via a hand held unit, see col. 5, lines 42-43), all communicating via commonly-received wireless transmissions (via hand held unit transmitting wireless signal to the ballast), method comprising:

- a. emission by each of the lighting units of a modulated light signal carrying the respective identification code (via ballast emitting its ID, see col. 4, lines 64-66);
- b. positioning of the remote control at a location where it receives the modulated light signal from only one of the lighting units (see col. 5, lines 66-67);
- c. activation of a selected one of a plurality of control elements of the remote control to associate selected control element with the lighting unit transmitting the modulated light signal being received (via organizing the ballasts into a zone, see col. 5, lines 66-67);
- d. transmission from the remote control to a control master for the system of a signal identifying the unique identification code for the lighting unit and the control element with which lighting unit has been associated (via operator using the handheld unit to transmit the ID to the wall mounted controller, see col. 5, lines 58-61);

e. repeating each of steps b through d for each of the remaining lighting units in the group (via repeating the system for each ballast, see col. 5, lines 63-65).

As of claim 14, Grouve discloses a method where the unique identification code is preassigned (see col. 2, lines 16-17).

As of claim 15, Grouve discloses a method where the unique identification code is determined at the time of association of the control element with the respective lighting unit (see col. 2, lines 24-27).

As of claim 16, Grouve discloses a method where each of the lighting units transmits the modulated light signal for a predetermined period after lighting unit is powered up (via ballast transmitting its ID after getting the power, see col. 4, lines 64-66).

As of claim 17, Grouve discloses a method where the modulated light signal comprises light emitted by the lighting unit for illumination (via ballast identifying itself by modulating the light output from one or more lamps coupled to the ballast, see col. 6, lines 8-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-3 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grouev et al. (6,333,605) and in view of Morgan et al. (US Pub 2002/0171378).

As of claim 2-3 and 12-13, Grouve discloses all the elements of the claimed invention as mentioned in claim 1 and 11 above, but fails to explicitly disclose that each lighting unit in the group can operate as either a control master device or a slave device.

Morgan discloses a method for controlling a group of lighting units (via methods and apparatus for controlling illumination, see title), where light sources (via 24A-24D, see fig. 4) can act as a master to control one or more other slave light sources and/or other devices (see paragraph 103).

From the teaching of Morgan it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the light source (ballast) of Grouev to include the function of a device acting as either a master or slave in order to make it easy for the user to control multiple light units via controlling one light unit only. For example one light bulb in a room can act as a master and others as slave so when user activates the master bulb all of the other bulbs in the room will light up.

5. Claims 8-9 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grouev et al. (6,333,605) and in view of Ben-Ze'ev (6,791,467).

As of claim 8-9 and 18-19, Grouve discloses all the elements of the claimed

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invention as mentioned in claim 1 and 11 above, but fails to explicitly disclose that the selected control element comprises a button and a symbol on a touch screen of the remote control.

Ben discloses a remote controller where the control element comprises a button (via a set of keys, see col. 8, lines 20-22) and a symbol on a touch screen of the remote control (via a display screen, see col. 4, lines 42-46).

From the teaching of Ben it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the hand held unit of Groueve to include a button and a symbol on a touch screen of the remote control as taught by Ben in order to ease and provide more friendly operation for the user (see col. 2, lines 28-31)

6. Claims 10 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grouev et al. (6,333,605) and in view Hou (US Pub 2002/0126035).

As of claim 10 and 20, Grouve discloses all the elements of the claimed invention as mentioned in claim 1 and 11 above, but fails to explicitly disclose that the selected control element comprises a sound produced by a user.

Hou discloses a remote controller where the selected control element comprises a sound produced by a user (see abstract).

From the teaching of Hou, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the hand held unit of Groueve to include a sound produced by a user as the selected control element as taught by Hou in order to allow the users to remotely turn on/off and control the operations of one or

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more electrical apparatuses through voice activation without having to manually press button and using their hands (see paragraph 8)

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wacyk (US Pub 2003/0020595) discloses a wireless controlled lighting system (via system and method for configuration of wireless networks using position information).

Denes (7,123,140) discloses a wireless controlled lighting system (via network for remote administration of street lighting inter alia and methods to carry out said administration).

Lys et al. (6,292,901) discloses a wireless controlled lighting system (via a power/data protocol).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nabil H. Syed whose telephone number is 571-270-3028. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00 alt Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynda Jasmin can be reached on (571) 270-3033. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nabil H Syed
Examiner
Art Unit 2609

N.S



BENNY TIEU
PRIMARY EXAMINER